Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2), wherein the switch housing (4; 6) consists of two sections, with a base plate (4) containing the contact surfaces (2) and a cover (6) with an opening (6') through which protrudes a part of the switching element (1) with a diaphragm (5), wherein said two housing sections (4; 6) are connected in self-locking fashion by clamping or welding.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2), wherein the switching element (1) is pin-shaped and has a round or oval cross section while its end (1'), which makes contact with the contact surfaces (2) is rounded into a convex tip.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a

region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2), wherein, in the area where it rests against the switching element (1) and/or in the transition area between the switching element (1) and its connection to the switch housing (4; 6), the diaphragm (5) is provided on its inside and/or outside with one or several notches (7).

Claim 7 (currently amended): The switch according to ~~claim 1~~any one of claims 4 and 16, wherein the switching element (1) comprises a metal.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with

the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2), wherein the contact surfaces (2) comprise contact pins (3) whose ends (2) facing the switching element (1) are hemispherical or mushroom-shaped.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The switch according to ~~claim 1~~any one of claims 4 and 16, wherein the switch housing (4; 6)comprises a 2-component injection-molded plastic material.

Claim 11 (currently amended): Use of a switch per one of the claims ~~1, 2 and 4-10~~ 4, 5, 6 and 9 in miniaturized devices.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The switch according to ~~claim 1~~any one of claims 4 and 16, wherein the elastic diaphragm (5) comprises an elastomeric material.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): The use of the switch according to claim 11, wherein the miniaturized devices are

hearing aids.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): An electromechanical switch incorporating in its switch housing at least one pin shaped, electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2) to establish an electrically conductive connection between the contact surfaces.

Claim 17 (cancelled)